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formal round table be planned for county librarians at the next A.L.A. conference and that Miss Metz act as chairman.

The headquarters of the Wayne County Library, located in the Scripps Branch, were visited following the meeting.

HARRIET C. LONG.

HOSPITAL LIBRARIES ROUND TABLE

The round tables for the discussion of hospital library problems were held Tuesday evening, June 27, and Wednesday afternoon, June 28. The meeting June 27 was conducted by Caroline Webster of the Library Sub-Branch, U. S. Veterans' Bureau, and was given over to an informal discussion of the problems arising in hospital work when the libraries are administered as a part of the public library system.

Representatives from the libraries at Detroit, Chicago, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Evansville, Sioux City, all spoke with enthusiasm of the work in hospitals. Clarence W. Sumner of Sioux City, who is probably one of the most enthusiastic believers in the possibilities in this branch of the service, assured his hearers that it was always possible to get a fine response to request for funds for this branch of library work. He has two assistants giving full time to hospital work.

The meeting Wednesday afternoon, June 28, was conducted by Miriam E. Carey, chairman of the A.L.A. Committee on Institutional Libraries. Caroline Webster of the Veterans' Bureau was the first speaker, giving a brief account of the library work carried on for ex-service men during the past year.

Dr. C. H. Lavinder, assistant surgeon general of the U. S. Public Health Service, before reading his paper on HOSPITAL LIBRARY SERVICE, said that if evidence was needed of the place that libraries are taking in hospital administration this evidence was given by the fact that a busy doctor, the doctor responsible for appearing before committees of Congress to answer questions concerning the administration of hospitals during the coming year, would drop all of his work at the beginning of the fiscal year and go hundreds of miles to speak to librarians on the value of library work.

HOSPITAL LIBRARY SERVICE

By C. H. LAVINDER, *Assistant Surgeon General, U. S. Public Health Service*

As most of you are aware, the Public Health Service for the past three years has been furnishing medical care and treatment to veterans of the World War and in the discharge of this responsibility built up a large hospital system. These veterans' hospitals more or less recently, under an order of the President, and in accordance with law, were transferred to the newly created U. S. Veterans' Bureau for future operation. This transfer definitely terminated all responsibility of the Public Health Service in connection with the operation of hospitals for the care of veterans of the World War.

During the three years in which this Service was engaged in this work it built up a large system of hospitals in which there were treated a total of about 275,000 veterans of the World War to whom were given about 14,500,000 hospital relief days.

While the activities of the Public Health Service with regard to the medical care and treatment of veterans terminated with the transfer of these hospitals, there still remain under the control of the Public Health Service 24 operating hospitals. These are known as marine hospitals and will continue to operate under the Public Health Service as they have done for many years past.

These hospitals are all general hospitals with the exception of three. One is a leper home, one is a hospital devoted to the care of immigrants and one is a tuberculosis sanatorium. Most of them are located on the coasts and navigable streams of the United States.

During the past fiscal year the Public Health Service cared for in these hospitals and its relief stations a total of about 106,-

000 patients, of whom about 45,000 were treated in hospital. To these were given approximately 1,200,000 hospital relief days. This work is increasing rather than diminishing. The Public Health Service, therefore, continues to carry a hospital responsibility of considerable magnitude.

This Service, under these circumstances, is of course very keenly interested in modern hospital development of every kind. The tendency of modern medicine toward elaborate specialization, intricate refinement of diagnosis and the inauguration of new activities of various kinds is a matter for serious consideration.

Every practical hospital administrator must view with some uneasiness the continually increasing demands of this character which are made upon hospitals. The cost of hospital medical care and treatment is steadily rising and it has now reached the point where ward accommodation in a hospital which supplies adequate care and treatment, costs from \$4.00 to \$5.00 per day, and yet the demands for further developments and larger costs still continue.

The modern hospital assumes, of necessity, a very much larger responsibility than formerly in the care and treatment of its patients and undertakes to supply these patients with many things which, until recently, were not regarded as a necessary part of hospital care and treatment. Under these circumstances careful discretion is required as to the adoption of new things or the perpetuation of many which have already been started.

The war was responsible for the birth of some new ideas, and for the rapid extension of many others. Some of these must, of necessity, be eliminated. Others are too good to let go. The idea of a hospital library service was not born during the war, but undoubtedly its development was hastened very much in the hospitals operated for the sick and wounded during that struggle.

My experience is exclusively in governmental hospitals, and there are certain very striking differences between governmental hospitals and civilian hospitals, which it is unnecessary at this time to discuss. The inauguration of a library service in the hospitals under the control and operation of the

Public Health Service was begun and continued for many months under the direction of the American Library Association. This organization, as a continuation of its war work, undertook the organization and administration of a hospital library service throughout the system of hospitals operated by the Public Health Service.

With the depletion of its funds which could be devoted to this purpose, the work was supported for a time by the American Red Cross and ultimately was transferred to the Public Health Service as an official activity. This transfer was made possible largely by the interest of the representatives of the American Library Association, through whom there was inserted into an appropriation bill \$100,000 for the purchase of books and periodicals for the veterans under treatment in hospital.

The library service carried on in our hospitals under the direction of a representative of the American Library Association has given an excellent experience on which to base judgment as to the value of such a service in a modern hospital, and has offered opportunity for constructive criticism and perhaps for future developments of an important character.

It is not my purpose to discuss at any length the question of the organization and operation of a hospital library service, nor to put in figures the volume of work which has been done. I am interested rather in the results as they have affected the condition of patients and the administration of hospitals.

It might, however, be mentioned as of interest that at the high tide of this work there were employed some 30-odd librarians of various grades, with a total pay roll of about \$50,000 a year, and there was expended during the year about \$65,000 for books and periodicals.

I would offer some comment from my own experience as to certain features which have impressed me in a hospital library service. In the first place, I have felt that the operation of a service of this character in a governmental hospital might perhaps best be done by some reliable outside agency working in co-operation with official authorities,—just such an arrangement as did exist originally

in our hospitals under the direction of the American Library Association. This has appeared to me to give flexibility to a service which is difficult to operate without a certain degree of flexibility, and to supply a need by no means easy to meet in official hospitals operated under the rigidities of law, regulation and official procedure. Such an arrangement while perhaps desirable is by no means necessary. I am convinced that a successful hospital library service can be operated under official direction.

Another point of importance is the support of the superintendent or the medical officer in charge of the hospital. I would emphasize that for success this support must be both hearty and sympathetic. Nothing contributes more to the success of a real library service than a medical officer in charge who has comprehension and sympathy.

In any organization the proper co-ordination of different activities and co-operation on the part of the personnel of the different units is a matter of essential importance. There is, however, no single activity of a hospital which requires of its personnel such a hearty spirit of co-operation as a hospital library service. Above all other things the personnel engaged in this service must be adjustable and tactful. It must never be forgotten that the complex organization of a modern hospital is a sensitive thing which can be easily disturbed.

A hospital library service is an activity which lies outside of strictly professional activities and therefore must of necessity take a more or less secondary place, and yet be in position to take advantage of every opportunity in order to discharge its duty. This requires on the part of those engaged in this work a mental attitude characterized by a comprehension of the relative values of various activities in modern hospital practice and a co-operative spirit which permits adjustments wherever they may be necessary. Any personnel engaged in work of this character should give this particular feature serious consideration. It cannot be neglected.

A hospital library service, like any other activity, needs, of course, to be guided and directed by persons competent to do so. Inspections from time to time by trained super-

visors, especially in the management of a system of hospitals, seems to me necessary. An organization which comprehends traveling inspectors or supervisors to make periodic visits to each hospital for the purpose of looking over the hospital library service is just as essential as it is in any other department of hospital endeavor, if one would maintain proper standards and a good service.

The status of librarians and their compensation is a matter of importance. From my own experience it has been by no means easy to convince superior authority on these points. It is the desire and the purpose of librarians engaged in this work to establish a very definite status and to ask a compensation sufficiently large to permit the employment of high grade personnel and to place such personnel on a basis entirely comparable with other personnel in the hospital of similar proficiency. It will be the part of the librarians themselves to struggle for these things and in doing so they must of necessity more or less educate everyone as to the nature and importance of a hospital library service.

Perhaps it may be unnecessary to comment on the rather obvious fact that a library service should take into consideration the character of hospital in which it operates. The Public Health Service has divided its hospitals generally into three groups, those for mental and nervous disorders, those for tuberculosis of the lungs and those for general medical and surgical disorders.

Each of these types of hospitals will require a rather different character of hospital library service. Such a thing is obvious and yet is so obvious as to be overlooked unless care is exercised. The subject is rather broad for any detailed comment, but the psychology of different classes of patients must be taken into consideration, and the relative length of stay in hospital is also a matter of importance. For example, the psychology of the tuberculous patient is rather characteristic and his stay in hospital is likely to be prolonged. This would mean the selection of literature conformable to such facts. Many factors of this kind must, of necessity, influence not only the selection of books, but also the personnel and the

general arrangements for the service. Hospitals will require in this regard a certain amount of individual study on the part of competent persons and the adjustment of the service to meet the needs. I know of nothing which less permits of a formal, rigid organization and administration than a hospital library service.

While librarians are, of course, not charged with any responsibility regarding the operative costs of a hospital, yet they should ever have in mind that hospital administrators under whom they work must always expend time and thought upon the per diem cost of the hospital concerned. It may be safely held that all good hospital administrators will require that the service rendered shall be reasonable in its cost. Hospitals are rated in their expenditures on the cost per day per patient. To add to the activities of a hospital is, therefore, to raise this cost and since every good hospital administrator is jealous of his record in this regard, it behooves hospital librarians always to keep under consideration the cost of their service. By this it will ultimately be judged.

All hospitals, of course, are supplied with a medical library including both books and medical magazines. In any well regulated hospital this is a very essential part of the hospital's activities. Such a library is not always large enough to justify the expenditure necessary to employ personnel for its care and upkeep, and yet without some trained personnel such libraries are inefficient, degenerate and do not serve the purpose.

Personally, I can see no reason whatever why the librarian in charge of the hospital service should not likewise be charged with the strictly professional library service as well. This would help to enlist more readily, in my opinion, the sympathetic support of the medical staff, would place the hospital librarian in a position of more importance and at the same time would tend to reduce cost in personnel. I would urge all librarians engaged in a hospital library service to make a special effort to take charge also of the medical library in the hospital in which they are engaged and render in that library good service. I believe this would be wise from every standpoint.

I need not stop, before this audience, to say much about the difference between a collection of books and a library service. To all of you this distinction carries a very evident difference, but I can assure you that my experience teaches me that many men engaged in hospital work have been unable to see the difference which lies in such a distinction. It is a part of your problem to educate people and to show them wherein this difference lies. These and other matters will require effort on your part because progress will not be made unless you take pains also to educate. By this I do not mean to say that the value of a hospital library service has not been demonstrated. On the contrary, I feel amply satisfied that the modern hospital will be compelled to adopt a hospital library service as one of its essential activities. In other words, this idea has been firmly established but it has by no means been developed and this development will, of necessity, lie largely with the librarians engaged in this work.

I would also point out that the trend of this development and the extent of the same will largely depend upon the personnel now engaged in this work. It is one of their important duties, in my judgment, to see that this development takes place along proper lines and is not marred by tendencies which are unwise.

As to the results achieved by a hospital library service it is unfortunate that a statement of the results obtained in a service of this character cannot be made in exact terms. Such a service does not readily lend itself to a statistical explanation of its results. This is unfortunate because when one seeks to obtain funds for this purpose one is always met with the inquiry as to what has been accomplished. To those engaged in the work the results are obvious, but to attempt to place before an uninterested and unsympathetic individual such results is by no means easy. The things achieved are not such tangible things as can be weighed, measured or estimated in columns of figures and yet they have a value none the less important.

The establishment of a hospital library service gives, of course, a great deal of pleasure to a great many people who are confined

to the walls of a hospital, idle, always uncomfortable, frequently in pain and earnestly desiring some relief from the tedium of existence. To those who have a love of reading, books and magazines are, of course, an unbounded pleasure. To those who have not such a natural love, they may not make such a strong appeal, but when offered a selection of books and reading matter these can be also reached and their love of reading can perhaps be stimulated.

Along with this there goes the opportunity for education. It cannot be doubted that patients are receptive. The testimony of librarians is unanimous as to the demand for something more than light fiction. One who is unfamiliar with this work always expresses surprise at the character of the demands made and the class of literature so frequently requested. A look over the titles in the libraries of the hospitals which have been operated by this service is in itself sufficient enlightenment upon this point.

I do not stop to comment on the educational value of such reading when considered in connection with such activities as occupational therapy and prevocational training. Opportunity for reading along certain definite lines with the idea of making use of the information thus acquired in the training of the patient and ultimately fitting him for some particular field of endeavor is obvious although many practical difficulties in carrying out such a program can be readily appreciated.

One must not overlook the enormous opportunity presented in matters of pleasure and education through a hospital library service. For example: what an opportunity was presented in the hospitals of the Public Health Service during the past three years when about 275,000 veterans passed through these hospitals and spent there a total of about 14,500,000 days. It needs no comment to show what a stupendous opportunity was offered under such circumstances.

The materialistic view which obtained in hospitals not so long ago has given place in modern hospitals to a very different attitude on the part of the professional staff. In modern hospitals the psychology of the patient has become a matter of paramount im-

portance and no modern hospital can afford to neglect this point of view. This, of course, opens up a field of therapy in which a hospital library service must prove beneficial. The dissipation of idleness, the contentment of mind and the assistance in psychological adjustments on the part of the patient are all of prime importance in the matter of his recovery.

A well conducted hospital library service is a therapeutic agent of no mean importance and would be so recognized by any modern medical man. It is an agency which renders great assistance in creating among patients a mental attitude which permits better adjustments to hospital environment, and also helps in the creation of a beneficial atmosphere. It may be said, therefore, that it is a useful adjuvant to other remedial measures, assists in hastening convalescence and restoration to health.

A hospital library service is classed as one of the morale agencies of a hospital. I fear that the term morale of late is used very glibly by many of us and has, therefore, not such a definite signification. Nevertheless, to any hospital administrator it means something very material and very necessary to the successful administration of his hospital. It is the unanimous testimony of all that a hospital library service is one of the most important agencies in a modern hospital for the cultivation and the stimulation of the morale, not only of patients but also of the hospital staff. This is a matter of great importance to librarians and should never be lost sight of. Any agency which produces such effects will always receive the sympathetic consideration of any practical hospital administrator and will inevitably contribute more than any other thing to the ultimate success of the hospital.

My purpose in these remarks is not entirely unselfish. Naturally I have a keen interest in retaining with the marine hospitals under my immediate supervision some type of hospital library service. Most of these hospitals are not large and the maintenance of a hospital library service is, therefore, from a financial standpoint, more difficult. Yet in these hospitals we are still able, under the law, to care for veterans of the World War

and have at the present time under treatment several hundred such patients. Our other patients include government employees, seamen of the Merchant Marine, seamen of the U. S. Coast Guard, immigrants and other classes of patients.

The field from the librarian's point of view is an interesting one. Our funds are more or less limited and it is my earnest hope that we may be able still to maintain some connection with the American Library Association and continue a modified hospital library service to meet our needs. This perhaps may be done by making contact with local public libraries and soliciting their assistance.

In conclusion I wish to reiterate that a hospital library service in the system of hospitals which have been operated under the Public Health Service has proven to be an agency of first importance in maintaining the morale of both patients and personnel. All of us have recognized its value. It gives me pleasure to make acknowledgments to the American Library Association for their splendid spirit of co-operation and their most excellent and useful service. We feel peculiarly indebted to the representatives of

this Association with whom we have been in constant contact. Associations with Mr. H. H. B. Meyer and Miss Caroline Webster have been unusually pleasant and the personnel engaged in this service under Miss Webster have shown a commendable devotion to their work, frequently under difficulties. I confess that I have released my relationships to this work and to this personnel with great reluctance. It is my earnest hope that a way may be found still to maintain some connection with an organization which has proven so helpful in the past.

Dr. Lavinder was followed by Mrs. Herbert Gurney of Massachusetts, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the State Hospital at Foxborough. Mrs. Gurney spoke in an unusually delightful and forceful way of the need, not only for books but for library service in a mental hospital. Unfortunately Mrs. Gurney spoke without notes so that it is not possible to give her paper.

The attendance at both of these meetings was large. At the meeting Wednesday afternoon there were between two and three hundred present.

CAROLINE WEBSTER.

LENDING SECTION

First Session

The first session of the Lending Section was called to order at 2:30 p. m., Friday, June 30, by the chairman, John A. Lowe, assistant librarian of the Brooklyn Public Library.

By consent the reading of the minutes was waived. The chairman then appointed the following committee to nominate officers for the Lending Section for 1922-23: Chairman, Jennie M. Flexner, head of circulation department, Louisville Public Library; Waller I. Bullock, head of adult lending department, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh; Mary A. Batterson, chief of circulation department, Tacoma Public Library.

The first paper, read in the author's absence by Leonore St. John Power of the New York Public Library, was

ESSENTIAL BOOKS OF DRAMA IN THE SCHOOLS

BY MABEL WILLIAMS, *Supervisor of Work with Schools, New York Public Library*

In New York City the amateur stage is a common interest to people engaged in varied activities. The public library has been conscious of this for many years. We never have enough books of plays in our branch libraries. Professionals, settlements, clubs, churches, schools—all want to give plays and are searching for new and original ideas.

In this city there are a number of sources of information for play seekers. The New York Drama League Book Shop is unique in the country. Any play may be purchased there and expert advice obtained. Community Service, Inc., has a drama depart-